in: Witcher190, Taverns, Novigrad

The Purple Rose

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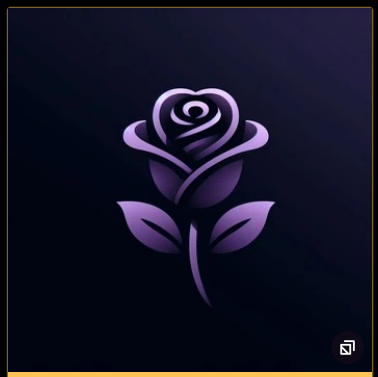
The **Purple Rose** tavern was a relatively new establishment situated in a recently developed district known as the Red District of Novigrad. This district began to take shape in 1273, following the departure of the mages from the city due to the period later known as the Witch Hunts. Tax incentives were extended to those who acquired the properties of the mages and repurposed them into 'places of good,' which led many of the city's brothels to relocate to this area, giving rise to the so-called Red District of Novigrad as a well established district by 1280. This moniker stemmed from a trend of painting the buildings red during that era, driven by the belief that it would attract prosperity to the area. Only a handful of well-established brothels, such as the Passiflora, opted to retain their original locations.



Information	
Owner	Cheboi Family
Type	Brothel (formerly) Tavern
Country	Novigrad
Region	Red District

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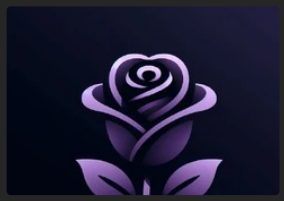

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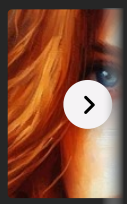

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Origins

The Purple Rose had initially functioned as a brothel in this district long before it became the Red District. It had been inherited by Olivia Cheboi, who was of mixed Nordling and Zangvebarian descent through her mother. Her mother had established the brothel as a means to make use of her father's wealth, a Zangvebarian merchant who had settled in Novigrad but tragically succumbed to tuberculosis when Olivia was still a child. For a time, Olivia assumed the role of madame, but she felt that this life wasn't meant for her. Consequently, she transformed the brothel into a tavern offering reasonably priced services, a move that eventually made it a highly popular establishment despite its location.

As a curiosity, this transformation was also due to her relationship with a certain famous bard, who ended up cheating on her with one of the prostitutes. This was the last straw and the definitive push needed to transform the old brothel into a tavern.

Naming

The naming of the Purple Rose did have a complex history. Originally chosen by Olivia's mother for its association with luxury and exclusivity, it was intended to attract wealthy patrons to the brothel. However, the brothel's clientele primarily came from a different social circle.

Upon inheriting the establishment, Olivia wrestled with the name. Part of her wanted to distance herself from the brothel's past entirely, to choose a name that reflected the tavern's newfound respectability. However, she also recognized the power of the name "The Purple Rose." It was catchy, memorable, and held a certain allure, even if its original meaning wasn't quite what she envisioned. So, eventually, she decided to keep it.

Structure & Design

The Purple Rose underwent a significant transformation from a brothel to a tavern. Gone were the plush silks and dimly lit corridors. In their place, Olivia opted for a more open and welcoming atmosphere. The walls were stripped bare, revealing the original brickwork, and large windows were installed to allow ample natural light. Sturdy wooden tables and benches were arranged throughout the common room, with a central hearth providing warmth and a focal point.

Olivia retained some elements from the brothel's past, repurposed for the new tavern. The stage, once used for entertainment of a different nature, became a platform for visiting bards and other entertainers. Several ornately carved screens were strategically placed, offering a modicum of privacy for patrons seeking a quieter corner.

The tavern's centerpiece was the bar itself, crafted from a massive slab of dark, polished obsidian. Olivia had acquired it from a Zangvebarian merchant who brought it from the Apumayu Basin, drawn to its unique beauty and unexpected sturdiness; it was the most expensive piece of the tavern.

The tavern has two floors and a basement. The upper floor served a dual purpose. A portion was sectioned off and converted into a surprisingly comfortable lodging area. Here, weary travelers or those seeking a night of privacy could rent a simple room for a reasonable price. The beds were basic but clean, and the floorboards were covered with thick woven rugs for added warmth.

The remaining space on the upper floor functioned as a common area for lodgers. Several plush armchairs were arranged around a smaller fireplace, providing a more intimate setting than the carved screens for conversation or relaxation. A well-stocked bookshelf offered a selection of novels and other books for those seeking to while away the hours with a good read. Olivia and her successors only granted access to this section after a certain amount of money had been spent, or if someone was a habitual and trusted patron. Therefore, this zone was protected by a bouncer 24 hours a day. Olivia wasn't well-read herself, as her mother was too busy being a madam to provide her with a proper education. Nonetheless, she established this area and bought the novels and other books to hopefully rid the tavern of its former brothel image.

As for the basement, it was primarily used for storage, but a dedicated section housed a surprising amenity – a communal bath. Built from salvaged flagstones of the ruins of the elven city that predated Novigrad and lined with waterproof mortar, the bath was a welcome luxury in a city where hot water wasn't readily available to the common folk. A large, cast-iron cauldron hung over a constantly stoked fire, providing a steady supply of steaming hot water. For a small fee, patrons could enjoy a relaxing soak, a chance to cleanse the grime of the road or the sweat of a hard day's labor. Separate changing areas, partitioned by heavy canvas curtains, ensured a modicum of privacy.

History

Jaskier and Geralt of Rivia´s visit (May of 1262)

Prior to its transformation into a tavern, during their stay in Novigrad in May 1262, the famous bard Jaskier and the witcher Geralt of Rivia visited the Purple Rose. They sought a place to rest, and Olivia offered one to them only after Geralt agreed to wipe out a plague of rimplers in the basement in exchange for beds. At that time, Olivia Cheboi, then 16 years old and recently inheriting the establishment, welcomed them.

During Geralt's contract, Jaskier seduced the naive Olivia, who fell deeply in love with the bard. From then on, Jaskier became a habitual patron of the brothel. He promised Olivia eternal love and a life together once he had enough money to retire as a bard, using this as an excuse to visit from time to time while continuing his other conquests in different parts of the Northern Kingdoms. Blinded by infatuation, Olivia believed every word.

However, Jaskier was a notorious heartbreaker, his affections as fleeting as the melodies he composed. He continued his visits to the Purple Rose, but his attentions were no longer focused solely on Olivia. He regaled patrons with his songs, his eyes roving the room, seeking a new conquest.

One night, Olivia discovered Jaskier cheating on her with one of the brothel's courtesans in one of the bedrooms. The sight shattered her illusions. The love songs, the whispered promises – all a cruel facade. Heartbroken and humiliated, Olivia confronted Jaskier. He offered flimsy excuses, deflection tactics honed through years of romantic escapades. But for Olivia, the truth was clear.

This betrayal became the turning point for Olivia. The naive girl who dreamt of love with a bard was gone. In her place stood a determined young woman. She wouldn't be a victim anymore. She wouldn't let the Purple Rose define her.

Fueled by anger and newfound resolve, Olivia decided to transform the brothel. Jaskier's callous behavior solidified her decision. The Purple Rose wouldn't cater to men seeking fleeting pleasures. It would become a place of its own, a haven for travelers, and a respectable establishment for Novigrad's citizens.

Assault of the Gardunnia (1280)

In September of 1280, The Purple Rose was assaulted by bandits working for the secret society/criminal organization known as the Gardunnia. These thugs, acting on orders from the organization's new leadership, sought information on the Cat Witcheress named D'yaebl. D'yaebl was blamed for the deaths of six high-ranking Gardunnia members, a consequence of events involving another key player – the witcher Putnam Pitch, who also attacked in the past several of the proxy organizations under the Gardunnia umbrella as a vengeance for the death of Tubiel of Brenna. Though the Gardunnia hadn't dissolved after this setback, it had undergone a power struggle resulting in new leadership determined to punish those responsible.

The bandits' target was D'yaebl, but they found Putnam instead. It turned out that D'yaebl had failed in her assassination attempt on Putnam due to various circumstances. The Gardunnia, unaware of this turn of events, assumed Putnam was the sole survivor and that he killed D´yaebl, their target. However, eventually, Putnam defeated the thugs, and everything returned to normalcy.

Known workers

- Olivia Cheboi
- Brenden

Trivia

- May 1262 is the date on which the short story of Eternal Flame takes place.

Notes

- The article is free to expand based on the previous information, feel free to put yourself in the writer tag.
- The article was also created to have a example of establisments articles. The new infobox is based on that of The Official Witcher Wiki, so feel free to edit the infobox and new stuff if you considered so.

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